(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The State Government has yet to furnish the requisite information/document like a copy of the amended Articles of Association etc.

(e) As soon as the required information/ document is received, the case will be processed for release of equity contribution.

Utilisation of funds of NHWF

569. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that funds of National Handicapped Welfare Fund have been invested in various deposit schemes rather than utilising them on welfare of handicapped persons in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such callousness; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by Government for proper utilisation of funds for the welfare of handicapped persons in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Madam. The fund is now renamed as National Fund for people with Disabilities.

(b) At present a sum of Rs. 8.75 crore (approx.) is available under the National Fund for People with Disabilities. The Funds available were invested in various deposit schemes, since the scheme to be funded out of National Fund for People with Disabilities could not be finalised before 6th January, 1998.

(c) Viklang Bandhu Training Programme Scheme has since been finalised to be funded from the fund. In its 10th meeting, the Board of Management of National Fund for People with Disabilities (NFPD).held on 6th January, 1998 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Welfare) has sanctioned Rs. 9.87,500/- to Six Non-Government Organisations and one DRC, Bhiwani under the above mentioned Scheme.

Assistance to **Assam for the benefit of SCs, STs and OBCs**

570. **SHRI** DRUPAD **BORGOHAIN:** Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance in terms of money sanctioned by Government to Assam for the benefit of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs for last three years;

(b) whether the assistance is given through Assam Govt, or through NGOs; and

(c) the amount given along with full details of recipients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The details of financial assistance given to the Government of Assam for the welfare and development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are shown in the statement attached Statement-I *(See* below). No assistance has been given in respect of OBCs.

Details of financial assistance given to NGOs in the State of Assam are shown in the Statement at Statement-II.

Statement-I

Funds Released to the State Govt, of Assam under centrally sponsored scheme

(Rs. in lakhs)

SCHEDULED CASTES

S.No.	Scheme	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1.	SCA to SCP to SCs	223.00	163.52	142.18
2.	Scheduled Castes Dev. Corpon.	30.74	11.92	15.37
3.	Post-Matric Scholarship for SC/ST	625.98	52.03	—